



VA CAN Presentation

Virginia Comprehensive Assistance
Network

June 28, 2007

Virginia First Cities



- Charlottesville
- Danville
- Fredericksburg
- Hampton
- Hopewell
- Lynchburg
- Martinsville
- Newport News
- Norfolk
- Petersburg
- Portsmouth
- Richmond
- Roanoke
- Staunton
- Winchester

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VFC: Moving Cities Forward

VFC Beginnings

A loose coalition of core cities working together to promote blight legislation in 1999, resulting in 14 bills being passed by the General Assembly that year

Realized a lot more could be accomplished focusing on a city-specific agenda and battling policy inequities together

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Why VFC?

- **Core cities are burdened with poverty, joblessness, at-risk populations, older infrastructure, social issues and high fiscal stress**
- **VFC advocates for the unique needs of core cities**
- **VFC is proactive, providing studied solutions to city-specific problems, inequitable policies, and funding levels**
- **VML is a complimentary partner to VFC, effective in defending local authority**

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VFC Priorities

Education Funding for At-Risk Children

Redevelopment and Housing

- **Enterprise Zones**
- **Blight Reduction**
- **Brownfield Funding**

Urban Transportation Funding

- **Street Maintenance**
- **Transit – moving people to jobs**

Improving Health and Human Services

Enhanced Law Enforcement Funding

Equitable Tax Policies/Service Responsibilities

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VFC 2007: Keeping Up the Momentum- Seeing Results

- Urban Policy Task Force Impaneled/Report
- Constitutional Amendment #3 (Tax Abatement) Accepted by Voters – Statewide Marketing Plan
- Eminent Domain Coalition/ Fundraising Effort
- 599 Public Safety Gubernatorial Policy Plan – VFC Driven
- Website Update/VFC Brochure Under Contract

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Major VFC Accomplishments

- **Visibility/Credibility** - *Urged Creation and Development of Governor's Urban Policy Task Force Report; * Successful Statewide Media Campaign for Tax Abatement Constitutional Amendment; *VFC Legislator Reception (Gov. Kaine Attended); *Elevated city issues in policy debates. * VFC now recognized by legislative and executive branches of state government. * Promoted Urban Policy Task Force*
- **Transportation** – *Advocated Successfully for Increased Transit Funding;* Initiated more equitable city/town street maintenance funding. Ensured an additional \$15 million in FY 07 and \$25 million in FY 08. * Initiated VDOT "First Cities Urban Construction Management Program". * Secured city-friendly street standards and industrial road access policies. * Secured additional statewide transit funding in 2007.
- **Redevelopment/Housing** - *Advocated for Enterprise Zone program;* Constitutional amendment for blight adopted by Commonwealth; * Limited Attack on Eminent Domain Authority through Coalition-building* Housing Rehab Zones legislation passed; * Improved Enterprise Zone laws for cities; * Strengthened anti-blight laws; * Worked with VHDA for mixed-use projects; * Helped enact "Brownfield" legislation; * Reduced requirements for selling tax delinquent property

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Major VFC Accomplishments

- **At-Risk Education Funding**
*Worked to increase early reading initiative funding and limit changes to At-Risk Add-on funding in 2007
- **Public Safety** – *Advocated changes to 599 funding for equity*Continued Hold Harmless HB 599 funding – \$1.1M;* Promoted city law enforcement needs and issues.
- **Human Services** *Efforts to maintain and improve CSA funding; * Supported efforts to increase Medicaid and Auxiliary Grant funding.

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Legislative Agenda

Transportation

- **New, Reliable Statewide Funding: Passed**
- **Transit - increased state share to improve & expand: Passed**
- **Incentives for regional transit service: Admin Action Requested**
- **Maximize transportation investments where infrastructure exists**
Progress made in HB3202

Redevelopment and Housing

- **Redevelopment: Constitutional Amendment Passed Nov 06**
- **Preserve Eminent Domain Authority: Defeated Constitutional Amend., But Harmful Bill Passed**
- **Enterprise Zones: Funds Added; program scaled back reduced**
- **Housing Trust Fund: Bill Defeated but support is growing**

Education

- **Eliminated 4% reduction in At- Risk Add On Program: Funds Added**
- **Improved Access to Va. Preschool Initiative**
- **Support pilot pre-school programs like Start Strong: Funds Added**
- **Enhanced Teacher Quality in At Risk Schools**
- **Full Funding of SOQ Reading Specialists: Funded**

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Legislative Agenda (cont'd)

Public Safety

599 fund growth - Passed

- **Add funds for localities with high violent crime rates**
Governor proposed/GA defeated

Taxation

Preserve local flexibility. No state caps and mandatory cuts of local tax sources

Increase income tax filing threshold for low income tax payers
Passed

- **Help low income citizens file for Earned Income Tax Credit-Administrative Action**

Human Services

- **Increase State funding for CSA Administration**
VFC Budget Amendment rejected

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Public Safety/Other Funding

- **While Governor's proposal on increasing HB 599 funds to 20 highest crime localities was not adopted, GA did maintain \$1.1 mil. for hold harmless provision.**

Related: Veto of Annexation Legislation- Early Extension of Moratorium

"In 1999, the General Assembly extended the 15-year ban on city-initiated annexations until 2010. Any further extension should be accompanied by a careful consideration of the effects of this "temporary" restriction. It is more appropriate for the General Assembly to consider this legislation closer to the time that the current provision expires." Gov. Kaine Veto Message

- **Provided \$15.2 million for various mental and physical disabled programs.**
- **Added \$9.1 million to increase Medicaid provider rates, including \$1.1 mil. to increase the Auxiliary Grant by 5 percent. (VFC proposal to elimination of local match- rejected)**
- **Provided \$20 million FY08 and authorized \$250 million in bonds for sewage treatment upgrades.**
- **Provided tax breaks for low income families**

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